



**Gen. Michael E. Ryan**

## Promising skies ahead

08/28/01 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The following is a message from outgoing Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan:

"From my perch, as I wrap-up my final tour, I see promising skies ahead for our Air Force...and it's because of you and your efforts.

"Despite tight budgets, you've arrested a stubborn four-year readiness decline. You've made our transition to an expeditionary aerospace force work, enhancing stability in the lives of Air Force members everywhere.

"Your direct feedback helped win Congressional support for many of our retention initiatives and the reestablishment of a full-benefit retirement system. Your voices have been heard and answered with across the board pay raises and targeted bonuses.

"You have made the personal choices to continue serving our nation, ensuring we're ready to protect America's interests around the world.

Your choices, your efforts, your dedication, your sacrifices continue to build the premier aerospace power this world has ever known. My family and I have been proud to serve with you.

"As General (John P.) Jumper assumes the office, he brings the deepest commitment to continued improvements in capability and quality of life for all our people. Together, he and Secretary (Dr. James G.) Roche, will provide superb leadership for America's Air Force in the years ahead. Thank you for your selfless service." @